

Green Purchasing



Green Purchasing Commitment

Sandia National Laboratories is committed to buying products, materials, and services that have a reduced impact on human health and the environment.

What is Green Purchasing?

Green purchasing is a broad concept that encompasses programs established by federally funded agencies, as well as individual purchasing choices.

Sandia National Laboratories (Sandia) recognized that purchasing decisions can have an environmental impact and established an Affirmative Procurement program in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Energy guidelines.



Green Products

Green products include a variety of products having any of the following attributes:

- Use energy efficiently, such as those that have earned the ENERGY STAR®
- Use water efficiently
- Contain few to no toxic or hazardous

chemicals or alternatives

- Contain biobased or recycled materials
- Is reusable or recyclable
- Contain no ozone-depleting substances
- Is sustainable or renewable
- Is manufactured locally products
- Contains less packaging

Why Practice Green Purchasing?

It minimizes negative environmental impacts by:

- Conserving natural resources
- Improving health and safety
- Reducing energy use
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Reducing waste
- It closes the loop in the recycling process

Affirmative Procurement

Affirmative Procurement refers to purchasing products with recycled or reused content as listed in the EPA's comprehensive procurement guidelines (CPG). Our goal is to meet 100% of the CPG for purchasing designated products with recycled content.

The CPG describe designated products that are or can be made with recovered materials and are grouped into eight categories. Once a product is designated, we are required to purchase it with the highest recovered material content level possible. For a complete list of items in the CPG, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/cpg/products.htm>



For additional EMS information, please visit:
<http://EMS.sandia.gov>

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Affirmative Procurement In Practice

At Sandia, Green Purchasing integrates into our daily business practices through contracts established with our vendors.

The Affirmative Procurement program works to purchase items listed in the CPG.

Examples of our regularly purchased items that meet the CPG include:

Construction

- Concrete and cement
- Restroom dividers
- Building insulation

Non-Paper Office Products

- Remanufactured toner cartridges

- Plastic trash bags
- Binders

Paper and Paper Products

- Printing and writing papers
- Sanitary tissue products

Vehicle Products

- Rebuilt Vehicular Parts
- Engine Oil

Miscellaneous Products

- Industrial Drums
- Pallets
- Signs



Examples of CPG Products

Other Green Purchasing Examples

In addition to affirmative procurement, Sandia works to practice green purchasing in other areas.

Sandia purchases BioSoy™, an alternative to standard petroleum-based hydraulic fluid. Soybean oil is a renewable resource and its performance is equal to any high-grade petroleum-based product. Its substitution is invisible to maintenance and operations personnel.

All monitors (CRTs and LCD Flat Panel) and laptop computers Sandia purchases through its just-in-time (JIT) contracts have earned the ENERGY STAR®. Sandia maintains a preferred systems list of desktop computers that have earned the ENERGY STAR®. Be sure to activate your energy saving options, such as monitor stand-by mode!

To preserve indoor air quality, Sandia purchases carpet made from recycled materials that emit low-to-no levels of gaseous volatile organic compounds.

Green Purchasing and You

At work:

Use or establish mechanisms for green purchasing, such as the JIT contract for remanufactured toner cartridges.

Ask your vendor for options with recycled or biobased content.

Consider green purchasing in your other needs, such as chemicals.

At home:

You can recycle and keep manufacturers supplied with materials. You can look for and purchase items with recycled or biobased material.

To learn more, visit:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp/>

Office of the Federal Environmental Executive

<http://www.ofee.gov/gp/gp.htm>

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